

**Ecusta Road (SR 1512)**

from US 64 to Old Henderson Highway  
(1504)

Local ID: **TRAN0033-H**

Purpose: **Facility Deficiencies**

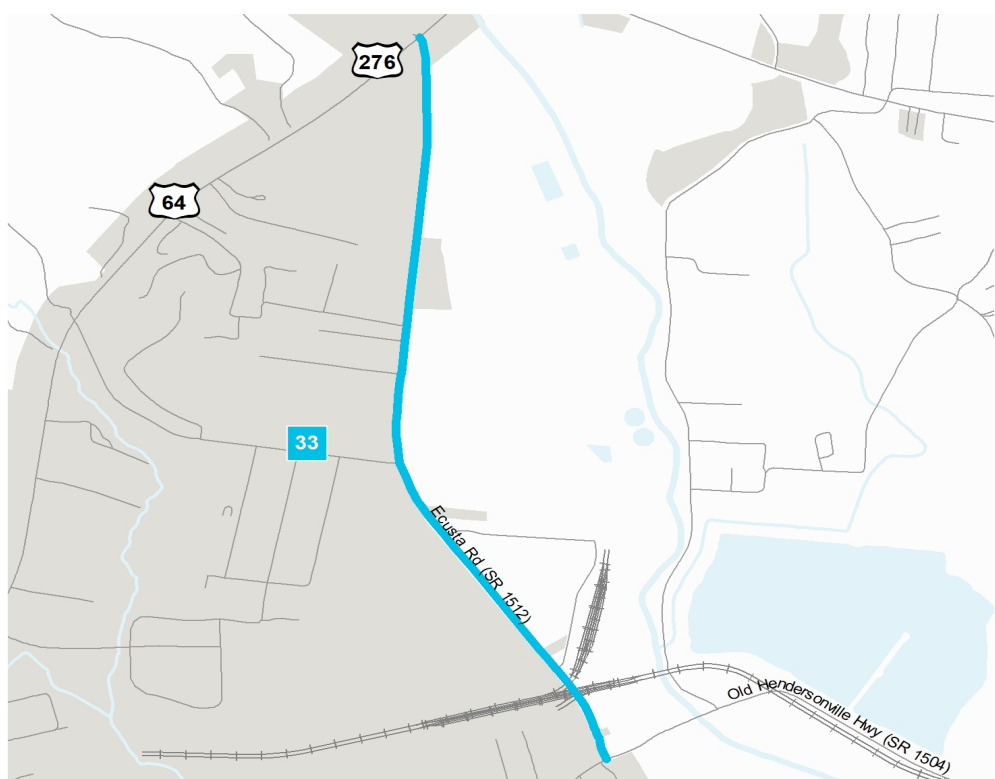
Improvement: **Improve Existing**

**Identified Need**

Existing Ecusta Road (SR 1512) has no paved shoulder and lane widths of 10 feet. Complete missing elements of complete streets network.

**Recommendation**

Improve alignment, lane widths, and shoulders to current design standards. Add multi-use path as needed to complete network. New sidewalks are recommended north of Morris Road (SR 1516).



	Local ID #	Improve	New Location		Local ID #	Improve	New Location
Congestion / Mobility	#	—	—	Interchange	⊙	□	■
Access Management / Operations	#	—	—	Bridge / Overpass	⊙	○	●
Modernization	#	—	—	Intersection	⊙	∠	▲
Other	#	—	—				

**Proposal At A Glance**

Highway Class	Modernization
Facility Type	Minor Thoroughfare
Typical Section	02 E
Section Options	-
Estimated Cost	-
Length (miles)	1.36
Existing ROW (feet)	-
Safety Risk Score	-

**Proposal Data: 2017 Base Year 2045 Future Year**

Improved Route	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal
<b>Facility Type</b>	Minor Thoroughfare	Minor Thoroughfare	Minor Thoroughfare
<b>Travel Lanes</b>	2	2	2
<b>Volume (vpd)</b>	5200-6200	6200-7300	-
<b>Capacity (vpd)</b>	10200	10200	10200

**Capacity Data:** Year

Facility will be Approaching Capacity (>80%)	-
Facility will be Over Capacity (>=100%)	-

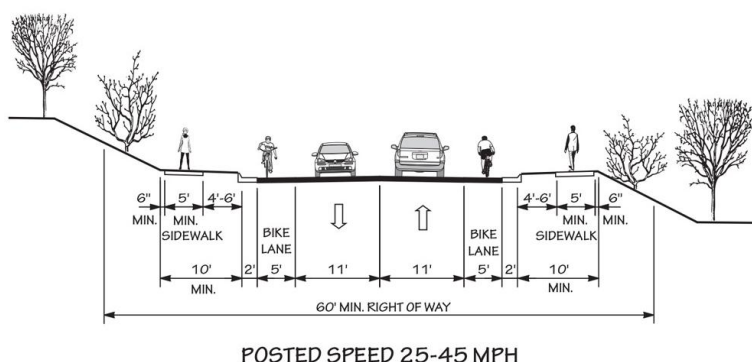


**Typical Section Options:**

None

**TYPICAL SECTION No. 2E**

2 LANE UNDIVIDED WITH CURB &amp; GUTTER, BIKE LANES, AND SIDEWALKS

**Project Overview****Linkage to Other Plans**

According to the 2013 Blue Ridge Bike Plan, this facility is part of the "Priority County Corridor" connecting Brevard, Rosman, and Pisgah Forest. It is classified as a major collector on the Federal Functional Classification System.

**Multi-Modal Considerations**

Transylvania County Transit, under the name "Transylvania in Motion" operates a fixed route as well as demand response system within the county. The fixed route serves this facility with a stop at the City of Brevard Sports Complex.

The CTP recommends a multi-use path along this facility to connect existing and future multi-use path, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The section north of Morris Rd (SR 1516) is already served by a multi-use path. The section from Morris Rd (SR 1516) to Old Hendersonville Rd (SR 1504) is recommended as a multi-use path in the City of Brevard Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan (2006/2018). The Transylvania County Bicycle Plan (2019) recommends bike lanes along Ecusta Road (SR 1512), Morris Rd (SR 1516), and Old Hendersonville Rd (SR 1504) and well as a multi-use path along the banked railroad line. In October 2020, Conserving Carolina entered an agreement to purchase a 19-mile corridor of unused rail line from Blue Ridge Southern Railroad for a proposed rail-to-trail project called Ecusta Trail. Once converted, the Ecusta Trail will connect Brevard to Hendersonville.

**Goals & Objectives Survey**

The citizens of Transylvania County responded to a public survey in early 2019 with a great deal of support for new greenways, sidewalks, and multi-use paths. When asked for their top three most important project types, these categories ranked first, third and fifth, out of a dozen choices. Rounding out the top five were maintenance

and safety projects at second and fourth respectively. When asked to rank transportation goals, the respondents gave two, preservation of the natural beauty and community character and increasing the number transportation mode choices, substantial net positive scores; improved connectivity, and economic development about neutral; and improved travel time was poorly scored, receiving over 50% of the lowest rank.

**Relationship to Land Use**

Ecusta Road is parallel to US 64 and is thus less densely developed. It has a mix of light industry like Cason Builders Supply, Coachworks Auto Body, and Builders First Source. The north end is anchored by the large retailers Lowe's Homes Improvement and Jennings Builders Supply. There are also many civic facilities along this facility including Davidson River School, Pisgah Foest Elementary School, the City of Brevard Sports Complex, Habitat for Humanity, a NC Forest Service Headquarters, and a US Post Office.

**Natural & Human Environmental Context**

Based on planning level environmental assessment using available GIS data, the proposed project intersects the French Broad River local watershed and the historic Ecusta Paper Mill. According to LHI Guild Analysis, this project intersects multiple guilds of the Mesic Hardwood, Mixed Forest, and Sparsely Settled Mixed Habitats variety. These are predominantly A-ranked resources with the balance being B-ranked. The project is in proximity of Davidson River School, Pisgah Forest Elementary, and the historic Davidson River Bridge.